DAW YORK BARLY TRIBUNE, NATURELLY EXSCRESSED OF 1868

CAPTURE OF UNITED STATES FORTS.

THE MILITIA UNDER ARMS.

Forts Moultrie and Pinckney Seized.

THE REBELS' PLACOVER NATIONAL BUILDINGS

The Rebel Commissioners in Washington.

THEY DICTATE AN ULTIMATUM.

THE PRESIDENT WAVERING

He Wants to Give Up Fort Sumter.

CHARLESTON, Friday, Dec. 28, 1860. The Palmetto flag was raised early yesterday afternoon over the Custom-House and Post-

At 5 o'clock last evening the Palmetto flag was raised at Castle Pinckney.

A large military force went over last night to

take possession of Fort Moultrie. Fort Moultrie and Castle Pinckney were taken

possession of by the South Carolina military last

CHARLESTON, Friday, Dec. 28-p. m. Capt. Humphreys still holds possession of the arsenal. Castle Pinckney and Fort Moultrie are occupied by the State troops, under the instructions of the Governor of the State, to hold peaceable possession of these forts, and for the purpose of protecting the Government property. Castle Pinckney and Fort Moultrie were held by about twelve men, who peaceably surrendered. There was no collision. None was anticipated when the troops left the city to garrison these forts. The excitement is subsiding.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Dec. 28, 1860. The question of the South Carolina Forts being settled, attention is now directed to the other Southern Forts, all of which are in a totally defenseless position from Norfolk to the Balize. With proper garrisons they compose a line of defense of almost unequalled strength. Many of the fortifications, like those at Key West, the Tortugas, at Pensacola, and at the mouth of the Mississippi, are among the strongest in the world. But there is not a garrison in one of them, and, so far as can be ascertained, no steps are being taken to furnish any. It looks as though it was the intention of the Administration to voluntarily surrender every one that lies within a seceeding State. Fort Sumter has been saved, it is fully

believed here, solely by Maj. Anderson acting on his own responsibility, and in opposition to the policy of the President. 2. S. P. ecial Dispetch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Dec. 28, 1860. The taking of Fort Moultrie and Castle Pinckney by the populace of Charleston, confirms the limited intelligence received here last night, after the wires were in possession of the Secessionists. They were not defended, and therefore the capture was a cheap exhibition of chivalry. Major Anderson's standing orders directed him to hold the forts, to act strictly on the defensive, and to transfer his command from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter, if in danger or attacked. He recently asked for permission to make this transfer, unconditionally, which was not granted; and therefore, in moving, he assumed the responsibility of deciding as to the imminence of the danger, under his general in-

The Administration will disapprove of Major Anderson's change, just as was done when Commodere Spaulding obeyed its Delphic orders. Strong efforts are being made to court-martial him for burning the gun-carriages at Fort Moultrie, as a destruction of public property, but they dare not. The plunderers are growing careful of dimes, after stealing millions.

The troops at Charleston are to be withdrawn. upon the pretext that their presence furnishes cause of irritation, and may lead to bloodshed This policy will probably be pursued in whatever States may secode; for the Southern managers have long since announced, openly, that they would be in possession of all the Southern forts before the 4th of March. They knew Mr. Buchanan was in their power, and could be ordered at will. His complicity with this treasonable plot is no longer even disguised. He declared, on several occasions, last Winter, that he would be the last President of the United States. and is striving to fulfill that prediction. But he will fail, as other traitors have done before him.

Mr. Hardee, recently a clerk in the Department of the Interior, started for South Carolina this evening, with dispatches from the Commissioners, after their conference with the President to-day, covering assurances that the troops would be withdrawn.

Later .- Mr. Bigler and other friends of the President called at the White House, during the Cabinet Council this evening, to protest earnestly against the withdrawal of Maj. Anderson's command from Charleston. They were not admitted, but communicated the object of their visit through Secretary Black, who was called out for that purpose. These remonstrances may possibly produce some effect upon the President's vacillating purpose, but the secession managers will control the course of the Administration ultimately by operating on his fears fer his own personal safety.

Special Dispatch to The Commercial Advertise WASHINGTON, Friday, Dec. 28, 1860.

The Secessionists here profess to have received information that the people of South Carolina have got possession of Forts Moultrie and Pinckney, and of the Arsenal at Charleston. You are aware, however, that the Arsenal at Charleston has been guarded by South Carolina militia for some time and their possession of the forts named, valueless though it would be, I join with many in doubting,

some of the insurgents have also sent on a dispatch demanding that Major Anderson shall be humiliated by being reprinanded and sent back to Fort Moultrie, which does not agree with the report that Fort Moultrie is in their possession. The telegraph is believed to be controlled by the insurgents, in order to influence and intimidate

Some here have been led to think that a crisis is approaching, but other think it further of

THE REBELLION IN SOUTH CAROLINA than ever, and any collisions with the Federal Government highly improbable.

> WASHINGTON, Friday, Dec. 28, 1860. The news of the capture of Fort Moultrie and Castle Pinckney reached the Administration while

in Cabinet meeting to-day. The Commissioners from South Carolina are in conference with them.

The Commissioners demand that the troops b withdrawn immediately, or this shall be their last interview, and they will return to South Carolina and prepare for the worst.

Another statement, which seems to be truthful, is that the South Carolina Commissioners, in view of the alleged stipulation on the part of the President that the garrisons of Charleston Harbor should not be augmented nor the military status of the posts changed, requested the President to inform them whether Major Anderson's movement was in consequence of any order issued by him or from the War Department. The President responded negatively, and added that Major Anderson had acted on his own responsibility. The Commissioners then requested the President to remand Major Anderson to Fort Moultrie; but on this point there was no concluion when the Cabinet adjourned.

The above statement was obtained from a source believed to be trustworthy, but there is

no means of verifying its absolute credibility. The Cabinet continued in session nearly six hours, and it is certain that it adjourned until to-morrow without coming to a conclusion on the affairs of South Carolina before them.

The act of Major Anderson is generally commended, for among other reasons, that while Fort Moultrie was comparatively weak, and might provoke the assault of a mob, the impreg nable defence of Fort Sumter placed it beyond such contingency, as it could be reduced only by a regular and protracted seige, thus avoiding an immediate collision.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Dec. 28-p. m. There is a terrible excitement in this city with respect to the South Carolina forts.

The crisis of the contest may be said now to have really commenced.

I am sorry to have to announce that the Pres ident's courage seems to be failing him, and he is said to be in favor of withdrawing the United States troops from Fort Sumter.

Feeling on the subject is running very high.

REJOICINGS IN THE SOUTH. RICHMOND, Friday, Dec. 28 . W. The seizure of the forts at Charl. 1 by

South Carolina gives great joy here. The secession feeling here has attained an in tensity which no one could have predicted a week ago. I observe many ladies on the streets

wearing secession rosettes. RICHMOND, Va., Friday, Dec. 28, 1860. The largest, the most intelligent and influential meeting ever held in Richmond assembled here last night, in the African Church, to give an expression of opinion on the present crisis. Several speeches were made, some favoring prompt secession measures, and others a resort to nego-

tiation as a mere ultimatum. All the speeches were intensely Southern, and indicate that the secession feeling in Richmond is far in advance of the estimate of the most ultra. Every secession sentiment uttered was vociferously applauded.

A call for Botts, from a few in the assembly brought down a perfect avalanche of grouns and hisses, and which could only be restrained by the announcement that Mr. Botts was not

Resolutions were adopted approving of a call for a State Convention, to adopt measures to se cure the rights of the State, in the confederacy or out of it, and in the event of dissolution, to provide for her assuming her just share of the debts and obligations, and for securing to her a mation of its plans, yet the handful of men at just share of the property, privileges, and muni- Fort Moultrie, who alone keep the American flag tempt at coercion, and declaring that such attempt would lead to war, and deprecating the seizure of forte by any seceding States before the formation of a new confederacy, unless such seizure, in the opinion of the seceding State, be essential to her safety.

The general idea from the violent manifestations at the meeting is, that Virginia will secode before the 4th of March. Had the Committee reported resolutions of the most ultra character they would have passed almost unanimously.

WILMINGTON, Del., Friday, Dec. 28, 1860. The citizens of Wilmington are firing a salute of 21 guns in honor of Major Anderson and his gallant band.

MONTGOMERY, Thursday, Dec. 27, 1860. The news received from Charleston this evening produced an intense excitement. The overt act, in the opinion of many, has been committed, and the military here are ready and willingyea, eager-to go to the assistance of South Carolina.

In twenty-seven counties heard from, in this State, forty-eight straight-out secessionists to eleven cooperationists were elected.

MONTGOMERY, Friday, Dec. 28, 1860. In forty-three counties heard from fifty delegates in favor of immediate State secession have been elected and thirty-five classed as cooperationists. Two-thirds of the latter are for ascession in cooperation with the other Cotton States. The other third is divided into those who require the cooperation of a majority, and of those that require all the Slave States. Eight counties are to be heard from, entitled to fourteen delegates. The excitement here continues on account of news from Charleston.

A LETTER FROM GEN. WOOL.

ALEANY, Friday, Dec. 28, 1860. The Troy Arena, thi. morning, publishes a lette from Gen. Wool, stating that the Watervliet Arsenal i exclusively under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of War, and that, on the 9th of the present month, ter thousand muskets were sold by the order of Secretary Floyd to S. B. Lamar of Savannah, Ga., and were shipped from the Arsenal on the 14th inst. The price was two dollars and a half for each musket.

The gun carriages at the Arsenal, designed for the Pittsburgh guns, have not yet been removed.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONVENTION.

BOUTH CAROLINA CONVENTION.

CHARLESTON, Friday, Dec. 28, 1860.

An ordinance, entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Constitution of South Carolina in respect to the Executive Department," was passed in the secret session of the Convention yesterday.

It provides as follows:

First: That the Governor bave power to receive Embassadors, Ministers, Consuls, and Agains of foreign powers; to conduct negotiations with foreign powers; to make treatise by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; to made treatise by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; to appoint Embassadors, Poblic Ministers, and Consuls, as the General Assembly may previously direct, and also all other officers whose appointment has not otherwise been provided for by law; to fill vacancies during the recess of the benate by granting commissions, which shall expire at the end of the next session of the Senate; to convene the Senate whenever he thinks it necessary. Provided, in extrapellar, a during the resistance of the construction of the construction of the construction of the construction of the construction. ensent of the Convention.

Econd: That the Opternor immediately appoint four persons,

with the service and concern of the Convention, who, with the Leutenant-Governor, shall form a Council, to be called "The Executive Council," whose duty it shall be to advise with him. All obligations of recreey in regard to the above

ordinance were withdrawn.

The Convention met at noon. Mr. Rhett spoke on

ordinance were withdrawn.

The Convention met at noon. Mr. Rhett spoke on the report of the Committee who had had under consideration the address to the people of the Southern States, and also on the ordinance for the formation of a Southern Confederacy. He said the object was to insure a speedy organization for a permanent protection of our rights. Texas and Arkansas were at last active in favor of the proposition. He advocated the election of twice as many representatives to the General Convention as were in the present Congress, and was in favor of the adoption of articles of confederation for a Provisional Government.

In the secret session, yesterday, Mr. Memminger, to whom had been referred the resolutions of the Convention on citizenship, reported an ordinance, that every person residing in South Carolina at the time of its recession from the United States, whether a born resident or a naturalized citizen, shall continue until death a citizen of South Carolina, unless a foreign residence be established, or notice of intention be given of expatriation; also, that all free whites born within the territory of the State, or those born outside the territory whose father was then a citizen, shall be deemed citizens; also, persons from any one of the United States, who, within twelve months from the recession of this State, shall reside within its territory, with the intention of remaining, shall, upon taking the cath of allegiance, be declared citizens; also, that eliminates after the expiration of a year from the date of secession, and actually residing seven months, with the intention of remaining, shall become citizens upon taking the oath of allegiance; also, all free whites entering the military, naval, or civil service of the State, shall become citizens upon taking the oath of allegiance; also, all free whites entering the military, naval, or civil service of the State, shall become citizens upon taking the oath of allegiance; also, all free whites entering the military, naval, or civil service of the S

MARYLAND.

BALTIMORE, Friday, Dec. 28, 1860. The meeting at Baroum's Hotel last night, so fa from being a secession meeting, was an informal meeting of merchants, members of the bar, and others, to devise such measures as might be deemed necessary t preserve the honor and interest of Maryland in the present threatening aspect of affairs. It was composed of Conservative-Union loving citizens, but the privacy with which the proceedings were conducted gave as impression to some that it was of an opposite character.

Twelve out of twenty-two of the Maryland State Senators are now in secret session at Barnum's, in obedience to a secret call, for the purpose of consul ing and uniting in an address to Gov. Hicks, again urging him to convene the Legislature. It is under stood that if the Governor refuses, the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House will eventually unite and convene the Legislature, independent of the Governor. The excitement continues.

FLORIDA.

CHARLESTON, Friday, Dec. 28, 1860. Advices from Jacksonville, Florida, dated the 24th nst., show that four-fifths of the delegates elected to the State Convention will go for immediate secession.

> TENNESSEE. МЕНРИІS, Friday, Dec. 29, 1860.

w ase and enthusiastic Union meeting held . e. o-day. It was addressed by the Ho S. Brown and others. Resolutions were passed ing separate State Secession, against coercion, favoring a Convention of the Southern States to de mand their rights, and if refused to take immediate

NORTH-CAROLINA.

RALEIGH, N. C., Friday, Dec. 28, 1860. All is quiet here, and business dull. Most of the members of the Legislature have gone home.

Meetings are being held in the various counties, which Union sentiments are prevalent, but hope is well

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 25, 1860. The proclamation by Gov. Pickens, wherein he declares to the world that the State of South Carolina " is, as she has a right to be, a separate, sovereign, and independent State, and as such has a right to levy war, conclude peace, pegotiate treaties, leagues, or covenants, and to do all acts whatsoever that rightfully appertain to a free and independent State, completes secession so far as parchment goes. Practically secession as yet has gone no further. Though the President, the Secretary of War, and the Federal Administration have shown willingness to see this treason go on, if they have not positively incited it, even the consumflying, forbid the execution of the parchment avowals. Matters cannot be kept so long. The multitude that have for so many weeks been encouraged to believe that secession meant practical action, will not long be held back. There is a determination on the part of this armed multitude to have a fight. With them secession has that practical significance. Though no states, men, they conclude that secession is revolutionand revolution war. In that way they argue themselves into a fight, and if they don't have it there will be a second rebellion. The leaders are not masters of these men. The fact is quite the reverse. The leaders secode for an idea. The multitude, with muskets and rifles in their hands, for practical results. Thus you may at any moment expect something lively. Chancellor Dunkin is probably the most prac-

tical man in the Convention. From the first be has been looking after the mails. His idea is that nothing produces revolution so quick as famine, and that if an intellectual famine is produced, such as would ensue from a suspension of the mails, the revolution would fail. Acting on this principle, he has worked through the following ordinance, which so far repeals the ordinance of secession as to continue the United States postal

system: AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PROVISIONAL POSTAL AR-

Whereas, The State of South Carolina owes it to her Whereas, The State of South Carolina owes it to ner own citizens, and to those of other States, that, as one of the contracting parties, she should not prevent or interrupt the performance of the pending contracts for carrying and delivering of the mails made by the Uni-ted States while South Carolina was one of said States:

ted States while South Carolina, in Convention as-sembled, do declare and ordain, and it is hereby de-clared and ordained, that the existing postal contracts and arrangements shall be continued, and the persons charged with the duties thereof shall continue to dis-charge said duties until a postal treaty or treaties shall be concluded, or until otherwise ordered by this Con-vention.

The Convention spends much of its time in secret session, where, it is understood, considerable disagreement exists.

To-day the body is to meet at 12 m., when it will probably adjourn to participate in the Christmas festivities, which, even at this early bour, community generally show a disposition to enjoy. Your correspondent purposes to accept, by faith, the "compliments of the season" from friends and more than friends, at home.

One feels himself an alien indeed here; not simply because, by an act of the Convention, all are made so who belong to the Union; but more than an alien, when he feels that he cannot ut ter aloud one word for that Union, or attempt to excure even wrongs complained of under it; where it is little short of treason, to be punished almost, to look upon the American flag, as I did this morning from the Battery, while it waved over Fort Moultrie; and where no shout or song for it is heard-nothing but derison, and another and a mongrel flag, with every star but one blotted out, and every stripe erased, is sub-

stituted. With no utterance from these around me but that of treason to the Constitution and the country, no flag anywhere that does not emblem the sentiment, I felt that I could not do a more fitting thing, certainly not one more in accord with my own feelings, turned, as my thoughts were by the day on home and country, and to ward things higher than the distracting councils of the Revolutionists, amid which for so many days I had sat, than to go down early and look upon the stars and stripes with which the true men at Fort Moultrie every morning salute the rising sun. It was there-but no where else. It was difficult to suppress a cheer, but I did, for well I knew that any indulgence in the luxury would be at the risk of confirming the suspicion concerning my identity, of a fellow with hangdog-look, who follows me. So, says I, pointing to a Palmetto flag near by, at the mast of a vessel that will have to pull it down and run up the stars and stripes, as soon as it gets outside the harbor, or else run the risk of a capture as a pirate. "My friend, that is a glorious flag, and beats entirely that striped thing that holds out yet down at the fort." The fellow was confidential at once. "That's the flag, Sir, and it won't be long before our boys pull that one vonder down and trample it under their feet. It must come down, our boys are bound to do it, and that, too, before many days go by. It's all arranged; the leaders can't stave it off much onger, and we will do it in spite of them.' How many men will constitute the attacking party," asked I. "Five or six hundred, and short work they'll make of it, too," said he "Do you think Mr. Buchanan will send more soldiers to Major Anderson !" "No, he dare not do that: Gov. Pickens has got that fixed. We don't fear Buchanan; we can get along with him: it's Lincoln: and we mean to do so much before he comes in that he can't undo it."

I found that the fellow was not only intelligent generally, but thoroughly posted in regard to the plans of the revolutionists. Convinced, probably that I was true, particularly as I gave him an opportunity to see the badge or cockade on my breast, he bade me good morning and left, probably to look for a stranger who would have the temerity to confess himself a Union man. And I took myself, as usual, to mingle among the Ecvolutionists.

THE WAR SECRETARY'S TREASON.

THE WAR SECRETARY'S TREASON.
THE CANNON AT PITTBURGH.
From The Dispatch, Dec. 27.

The cannon were not removed from the Arsenal on Wednesday. The Committee to procure information met, and (at the request of Major John B. Butler, U. S. A.) make public the following report:
Statement of stores shipped from the Allegheny Arsenal since July 1, 1860:

Marte hipped to.

Articles.

sets horse equipments.

West Point, New-York.—25 saddles.

New port Barracks, Ky.—100 ritle muskets, 100 sets musket at Fort Jackson and St. Philip, La. -22 pent houses for Barbette

The following are the numbers and weight of the canon ordered

to be sent way:
For the Fort on Ship Island, Mississippi—
21 10-inch Columbiads, 15,260 fb each......
20 8-inch Columbiads, 9,240 fb each......
4 32-pounders, Iron Guns, 7,250 fb each.....

We presume, from the complexien of the report of the committee, that they will be satisfied, and that the guns will be allowed to go. While we look on this as madness, we shall not oppose the decision of the meet-ing this afternoon, on the subject. The telegraph in-forms us that these guns were ordered for the forts at the mouth of the Mississippi, and at Galveston, before the outbreak of the present excitement on secession. If true, then why not countermand the order at once !

which would certainly either seize or demand their surrender, will (as we are told on all hands,) have seceded from the Union, and shall we be foolish enough just to place the guns within their grasp?

Although we had been assured that no shipment of small arms was designed, three dray loads of thirty heavy boxes, which the draymen informed us contained muskets and bayonets, were hauled from the Arsenal to the steamer Key West, late on Wednesday afternoon, directed Gaiceston, Texas. We have no doubt the remaining arms will be shipped from time to time, until, on the South seceding, she will have all the arms and the National Government none!

There are large amounts of cannon, arms and ammu ition at Baton Rouge and St. Louis, and there can of the Union of all means of defense.

Major Symonton assured our reporter yesterday there were no more orders to fill, and that he had that day received no communication whatever from the War Department. We cannot reconcile this with the fact that two citizens of Lawrenceville state three dray loads of boxes, marked "Galveston, Texas," left the arsenal that afternoon; that other citizens, and one of our reporters, saw one load of ten boxes, and that the drayman stated that the boxes contained muskets and bayonets, and he was taking them to the steame Key West, at our wharf. We give our readers all the derived. They can draw their own conclusions. We presume these guns and the 13,000 muskets, cav-

alry accounterments, gunpowder, &c., &c., owned by the United States, and now at the arsenal, will be shipped South, and be in the hands of the enemies of the Union before the 4th of March—and that Lincoln will find the arsenals in every Northern State as bat of arms and munitions as the national Treasury is of arms and munitions as the national Treasury is o cash, the Indian trust funds of bonds, or the present Administration of honor, honesty, or patriotism—for our Northern people has a superstitious reverence for law and order which will not allow them to thwart law and order which will not allow them to thwart treason, unless by due course of law, when in their power. The meeting to-day will prove a mere "safety-valve" for surplus gas, and to-day thestealing of the public defenses will go on under the order of those cut-purses of the Republic who have already "robbed the Exchequer!"

Those who have engaged in the work will have the satisfaction of knowing that every dollar thus earned, is tuined with the blood of some soldier shot down by these error in defending the national flag.

ese arms in defending the national flag. The Committee on the subject have received nothing

from Washington—not even an acknowledgment that their earnest remonstrances had arrived. From The Pittsburgh Garsette, Dec. 26. The Removal of the Cannon.—The removal of

the cannon from the Arsenal to the wharf we learn will take place to-day, unless the order be counter-manded. A public meeting has been called by the Mayor, in pursuance of a request signed by a large number of our leading citizens without regard to party, to convene at the Court-House this afternoon at 2 cided for the recognition of the conveners. o'clock, for the purpose of taking the matter into consideration. From the feeling exhibited by our people generally, we have no doubt that the meeting will be a large one. In the meantime it is to be hoped that the officers who have the matter in charge will reconstructed. sider their determination to remove the guns. The removal would not be prudent in the present excited condition of the public mind. The people have lost all confidence in the fidelity and the patriotism of those who have control of the Government. Let there be a general attendance at the meeting, and a full ex-pression of feeling. The times demand decisive ac-tion. AN APPEAL TO PENNSYLVANIANS TO ARM THEM

From The Pitteburgh Gazette, Dec. 27. LET THE PROFIE ARM .- We give this advice relu

tantly. We have been loth to believe it necessary. But events are croweing on us so rapidly and rendering it so necessary, that we can no longer refrain. The time has come when it would be criminal to with

Our advice, therefore, to every Northern n Arm yourself at once. If you have a gun, get it ready

as possible. For it will take time to ret one. The North is, to-day, almost bare of arms, and he who orders one to be made will have to wait some time before his order can be filled.

Look at the facts. The Northern arsenals belonging to the Ut ited States have been deunded, within the last three months, every available arm within them having been shipped South. The State arsenals have all been emptied by the Southern demand, and have orders far ahead of their allility to supply. The Government has ordered all the United States troops to the Pacific Coast, out of the way; and all the available force of the Navy has been sent to distant stations, where orders of recall cannot reach them under a month's time. All these facts demonstrate that while the South is fully armed and ready for war, the North is defenseless.

the South is fully armed and ready for war, the North is defenseless.

The military spirit, besides, has not been active for some years past, and the number of volunteer companies is smaller than it was. The number of arms in the hands of the volunteer soldiers, therefore, is comparatively trifling. Hence our chief reliance must be on the arms in the hands of individuals; and no Republican should now feel himself secure without one. We are not alarmists; but it would be criminal to hide from the people the fact that they are in danger. They have been betrayed by their Government into the hands of their enemies. There is a well settled purpose on the part of the Southern hot-heads to take possession of Washington City, and prevent the inauguration of Lincoln. When that conspiracy develops itself, as it will, in what position will the North be to resist or prevent it? Can she do it in her present unarmed condition? She has numbers; but she has not the weapons, and she will be false to herself if she does not supply the lack at once. does not supply the lack at once.

TO SEIZE THE KEY WEST FORTS AND GET

THE SALVAGE.

The following is an extract from a private letter received by a gentleman of this city, from a friend at Key West:

"The Socession movement is very strong and bitterly and betterly the second of the

"The Secession movement is very strong and bitterly urged here in Florida. The Convention will meet 7th January. There is but faint hope of saving this State, though we are laboring hard to send from this town good conservative men, who may gain delay, if nothing better. The question has already been started in the councils, as to seizing on the Forts at the Tortugas, and this place. Now, you know that these two places command the Gulf of Mexico and are of national importance. The power holding them may control the commerce of the Gulf of Mexico, for good or evil; and the strong argument of the Secessionists in this town the strong argument of the Secessionists in this town is, "by separating from the States we get rid of Judge Marvin, and will get all the salvage." Atrocious as this sentiment seems, it has been uttered by a Federal

Some propose separating this island into an independent Some propose separating this island into an independent community of free-trade, which with the wrecking pur-pose above implies more than honest trade; but, letting alone all the mad schemes which are affoat, there are enough Union men in this town to carry the day, if they could be sure of protection against invasion from the South. Men will remain true to the Union, if the Government would provide for their protection by gar risening the Forts. The Fort here, Fort Taylor, has 60 heavy guns mounted, and is in so good a condition of defense that 100 men can hold it against 5,000 for a reasonable time. Fort Jefferson at the Tortugas has

neguns mounted.

bociety in Key West is divided into two classes—the upper strata is called "Conchis," after the shell of that name—that class is loyal; the other is called "Sponges," who live by wrecking and diving for sponges—that class is the one who wish to create the independent confederacy.

6. W. B.

HOW THE NAVIGATION OF THE MISSIS-

HOW THE NAVIGATION OF THE MISSIS
SIPPI IS TO BE SETTLED.

From The N. O. Delta, Dec. 29.

Louisians will never claim or exercise any more, power over the navigation of that portion of the Missippi which flows through her territory, than has been exercised by the United States and her own State authority. The ships and steamboats of the citizens of other States who are friendly to us will be allowed the same free entry and exit which they have always enjoyed. Nay, more; the commerce between them the same free entry and exit which they have always enjoyed. Nay, more; the commerce between them and us, under the free-trade policy—which will be one of the leading features of the political system of the South—will be far greater than it ever has been under the New-England policy which has controlled the administration of this Government for the last forty years. As the West largely produces what we of the South largely consume, it will be to our interest to invite and encourage the free importation of Western produce into sur ports. To enable our Western neighbors to sell their products to us on the cheapest terms, we intend to give them another advantage which they do not now enjoy. We intend to open our ports free we intend to give them another awarding which does do not now enjoy. We intend to open our ports free to those articles of foreign growth and manufacture upon which the Western people are now compelled to pey duties of 20 and 25 per cent to botster up Eastern capitalists and manufacturers. We intend at one blow to release them from this burden. We intend to make trade free, and one of the greatest blessings of copitatists blow to release them from this burden. We intend to make trade free; and one of the greatest blessings of that system will be, that it will create the and relations of mutual interest and friendship between the South and great West which no political revolution can destroy. The Valley of the Mississippi is one and indivisible in interest, and no political divisions or relations which ignore this identity will ever be permater. Whether we are members of the same or difference. change these relations into those of conflict and hostility! New-Orleans is the natural and geographical depot

of the trade of the Mississippi Valley. The artificial system of protective tariffs, and other facilities and aids of the Federal Government have diverted that trade to the Eastern ports, and imposed upon it the trace to the Eastern ports, and imposed upon it the burden of a more expensive transportation to those ports. It will be the aim of the new policy of the South to abolish these interferences and obstacles, and to make trade as free as the current of the Mississippi. If our Western friends cannot perceive the operation and advantages of this change, they have far less shrewdness and sagacity than we have given them credit for.

MINOR ITEMS.

POLICIES IN FORT MOULTRIE—ACTION OF A NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.—An officer at For YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.—An officer at Fort Moultrie, having a policy of insurance in one of our leading life insurance companies, wrote to the company on the 22d inst., stating the probability that the fort would soon be attacked, and the certainty that "it would be defended to the last extremity," and inquiring what would be the effect upon his policy if he should fall. He was promptly answered, that although the company was not legally liable where the assured fell in battle, yet, "if he should thus fall now while deing his duty gloriously and abandoned by the Government, he need have no fears but that his policy would be jaid."

THE TRAITORS ARMING IS MISSOURI .although the Wide-Awakes are not arming, and have taken no resolution to arm themselves, it is ascertained that other political organizations, known as Minute Men, Constitutional Guards, Broom Rangers, &c have endeavored to procure arms from the State. It further said that the leaders of these trained bands failing to get arms from the State, have come to th conclusion to purchase arms for them. These are grave charges, and call for immediate explanation. [Missouri Democrat, Dec. 22.

A South Carolina Commissioner in Wall street.—The rumor runs in Wall street that one of the valiant sons of the Palmetto nation came on to this city the other day to raise the means on the \$400,000 of bonds with which that nation is going to raise an army and navy and engage in various other disburse-ments. Promptly and gallantly the Bank of South Carolina had offered to take some \$50,000 worth of the Carolina had offered to take some \$50,000 worth of the said bonds, which in that region was universally regarded as a "big thing," With such a beginning there could be no doubt of the eagerness of the faithful New-Yorkers to meet the wishes of the new independent sovereignty. The agent in due time made his appearance, it is said, at the office of Mr. Belmont, a banker of well-known Southern proclivities and liberal disposition, but that gentleman, after turning over the documents cardlessly, said that he did not consider disposition, but that gentleman, after draining over the documents carelessly, said that he did not consider them worth the paper on which they were written. At the same time he kindly informed the Palmetto man that Messrs. Duncan, Sherman & Co. were in the same line of business, were also remarkably generous men, and might possibly administer to his consolation. Forthwith he hied to the office of those bankers. A constant of the first president him contibilly listened to Forthwith he hied to the office of those bankers. A member of the tirm received him cordially, listened to his tale, and replied that at present they were disinclined to do anything of the sort; but that probably Mr. Belmont, who was a great friend of the South, would accommodate him, under the vircumstances. It is further told how that agent shock off the dust of his is further told how that agent shock on the disk of his shoes against Wall street, muttered a few more oaths against the Yankees, and departed for Washington to see if something night not be done by Secretary Floyd, who sometimes does a little in that line. [N. Y. Evening Post, 27th.

[N. Y. Evening Post, 27th.

PROCLAMATION OF THE SECESSION ORDINANCE.—
The following is Gov. Pickens's proclamation of the
South Carolina secession ordinance:

Executive Department, Charleston, S. C.]
December 23, 1860.]

By his Excellency Francis W. Pickens, Governor and Commander in-Chief in and over the State of South Carolina:

Wacreas, The good people of this State, in convention agreembled, by an ordinance manimously adopted and ratified on the twentieth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty, rejealed an ordinance of the people of this State adopted on the twenty-third day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eightyof our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty

the State of South Carolina and other States, under the name of the United States of America:

I, therefore, as Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the State of South Carolina, by virtue of outhority in me vested, do hereby proclaim to the world that this State is, as the has a right to be, a separate, sovereign, free, and independent State; and, as such, has a right to levy war, conclude peace, negotiate treaties, leagues, or commants, and to do all acts whatsoever that rightfully appertain to a free and independent State.

Given under my hand and the seal of the State, at Charleston, this twenty-fourth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty, and in the eighty-fifth year of the sovereignty and independence of South Carolina.

P. W. Pickens.

Painting a White Girl to Mark Her a Slave.—

PAINTING A WHITE GIRL TO MAKE HER A SLAVE .-

PAINTING A WHITE GIRL TO MAKE HER A SLAVE.—
One day last week a gentleman of this city hailed an up-country boat, the Cora Anderson, as she was passing Greenville, Miss., whither he had gone on business, to return home. Shortly after being under way, our Natchez friend observed a pensive-looking fittle girl, aged about 9 or 10 years, whose black hair and yellowish brown skin would indicate that she was a mulattress. There was something about her that interested him, and he inquired of the captain concerning her. He was informed that she was a slave belonging to a man on board, whom the captain pointed out, who said he was taking ter to New-Orleans to sell her, he having bought her for \$160 in North-Western Missouri, on the borders. Our Natchez friend eyed the little girl and the border man so closely as to attract the attention of the latter, with whom he was soon engaged in conversation concerning the child, interrogating him in such manner as to clicit answers not always agreeing with previous statements, and evidently alarming him. This was suspicious. The little girl was taken aide and examined. She said she was an orphan, and had been taken from an asylum in New-York by this man; that her statements, and evidently harming his take suspicious. The little girl was taken aside and examined. She said she was an orphan, and had been taken from an asylum in New-York by this man; that her hair was light and her complexion brunette; that this man told her he was going to the South with her, where, as his adopted child, she would have a good home; that bluck hair was preferred in the South, and prettier than hers, and that he had taken her to a barber and had her hair dyed black. He also told her that if she would allow him to put some yellow dye on her skin that her complexion would become much whiter in a few days and that he had put the stain on. On hearing these statements the girl was taken charge of by the captain, and potash, soap and water being applied, the dyes were taken off and the light hair and light complexion brought to light. The pretended master was seized by the excited passengers, who were about to deal with him summarily, but it was finally arranged to lock him up in a stateroom iers, who were about to deal with him summarily, but it was finally arranged to lock him up in a stateroom until the boat should land. In the meantime the boat had passed St. Joseph, and when a few miles below that town rounded to take on wood. At this point, how, or in what manner is not known, the borderruffian escaped from the boat, leaving his baggage behind. The girl was taken by the captain of the boat to New-Orleans and placed in one of the orphan asylums in that city. [Nat. (Miss.) Free Trader, Dec. 12.

INTERESTING FROM WASHINGTON.

THE PRESIDENT'S TRAITOROUS COMPLICITY .- The instructions to Major Anderson were clear and explicit. He was not to act, except on the defensive. He had no right to remove his garrison or change his position unless attacked, and if he has done so, he has disobeyed Fort Sumter is seven miles from Charleston, and it

is very probable that he cannot communicate with the Government, all communication having been cut off.

At 10 o'clock p. m. the Cabinet was still in session. The Government is without any official intelligence what has transpired at Forts Moultrie and Sumte. The impression is very general that all means of continuing in with the Government have been cut off.

what has transpired at Forts Moultrie and Sumter. The impression is very general that all means of communication with the Government have been cut off.

It is understood that the authorities of Charleston have taken possession of the telegraph. In the absence of official information, the Government cannot act intelligibly. All the information thus far received by the President is through third parties.

Voluminous dispatches have been sent to Col. Anderson, the purport of which is secret; but enough is known to warrant the assertion that his conduct is not approved of, as might be expected!!!

Before they left Charleston for the seat of Government, the South Carolina Commissioners had the authority of the South Carolina delegation in Congress for believing that the Government had given the most solemn assurances that the forts should remain as they were, in statu quo ante bellum, until the Commission solemn assurances that the forts should remain as they were, in statu quo ante bellum, until the Commissioners had an interview with the President, and had explained their views to Congress through the medium of the Executive. Under these assurances, the preparations which the citizens of Charleston were making for their own protection against the fire of the forts were stayed. In fact, a mutual agreement was entered into, that nothing should be done either to atrengthen the fortifications, or to capture them by the citizens, pending the negotiations between the Federal Government and the Commissioners.

When the fact of the, to them, inexplicable conduct of Major Anderson on Christmas night last was com-

When the fact of the, to them, inexplicable conduct of Major Anderson on Christmas night last was communicated to them to-day, their indignation may be imagined. They pronounced it unhesitatingly a breach of faith on the part of the Government, a violation of the pledges of the officers on the station, and declared that the transfer of the troops to Fort Samter was conducted in a surreptitious manner in defiance of those pledges. Moreover, they declared that unless the whole affair were satisfactorily explained, or the act disavowed by the Government, their negotiation disevowed by the Government, their should cease, even before the initiative step taken, and that they would return to the mediately, without making an effort to account

thing of a pacific character. In addition, they said that unless the act were repudiated, as the Government of the United States had assumed the responsibility of committing the first overt set against the sovereignty of their State, and that, too, in defiance of solemn pledges, they could appeal to the people of the South fearless of consequences, and with the certainty that they would be sustained in abraptly breaking of negotiations with a faithless Government.

MORE OF IT.—It is understood that Gov. Brown of Georgia has solicited from Floyd, the Secretary of War, and obtained a year's lenve of absence for Col. Hardee, late Commandant at West Point, to ge to Europe to purchase guas and munitions of war for the State of Georgia.

The Almanac of Secression.—The States which

THE ALMANAC OF SECKSSION.—The States we are expected to follow South Carolina's example hold their Conventions on the following days:

A special session of the Legislatures each of Virginia and Tennessee, in reference to a State Convention, will meet on the 7th of January, and of Texas on the 21st of that month. The Legislature of North Carolina has adjourned to the 7th of January, to be prepared to

QUARREL WITH GEN. SCOTT .- The Washington correspondent of The Philadelphia Press, writing under date of Dec. 28, sava:

The President was entirely unprepared for such decisive action on the part of a subordinate, and at once sent for the Secretary of War and Gen. Scott, to know what it meant. At this meeting quite an angry dispute arose, the President and Secretary of War denouncing Major Anderson's conduct, and declaring that he had violated orders by forsaking Fort Moultrie and taking possession of Fort Sunter, while Gen. Scott defended the conduct and party planty intimated his contagnated. possession of Fort Sunter, while Gen. Scott defended his conduct, and pretty plainly intimated his contempt for those who not only seemed willing to sacrifice the lives of innocent men, but also exhibited a disposition to see important defences fall into the hands of the enemies of the country. In his opinion, Major Anderson had done exactly right, and could not have acted othersize south as he was to protect the lives of the offiemies of the country. In his opinion, hispor Anderson had done exactly right, and could not have acted otherwise, sworn as he was to protect the lives of the officers and men under his command, and under strict orders to defend his position. The principle of self-preservation required the occupation of Fort Samter, which entirely commanded Fort Moultrie, and if Major Anderson had not taken possession of it, he would have been placed at the mercy of the South Carolina disunionists, whose intention it was to have thrown a sufficient force in it to force his surrender, or insure his destruction. Immediately after this meeting, a Cabinet council was convened, but nothing was done. Mr. Buchanan's advisers exonerated each other from all blame for the consequences which might follow, and united in the conclusion that Major Anderson and Gen. Scott had determined to act for the Union, and not for the President under whose orders the laws of the country placed them. The treatment of this insubordination, in the present state of the country, is a delicate matter, and there is reason to hope that Mr. Buchanan will not dare to punish it by recalling Maj-Anderson. If this should be done, I learn that Gen. a delicate matter, and there is reason to hope that Mr. Buchanan will not dare to punish it by recalling Maj. Anderson. If this should be done, I learn that Gen. Scott will immediately resign his official position, and offer his services to his country. Should an attempt be made to take Washington, as the Enquirer and the Examiner of Richmond, Va., constantly advise, he will no doubt place himself at the head of the militia of the District, who are all devoted to the Union.

Our citizens talk of serenading "old Chepultepec."

SUSPICION OF FOUL PLAY .- Walter R. Tucker, a young man 15 years of age, suddenly disappeared from his residence, No. 23 Amity street, yesterday, and no clue to his whereabouts can be obtained. He is 5 feet n hight, has light hair, had on black coat and pants no overcoat), and a fancy cap. Tecker is heir to a arge estate, and from his sudden and mysterious disappearance, strong suspicions are entertained that be

bus been foully dealt with.